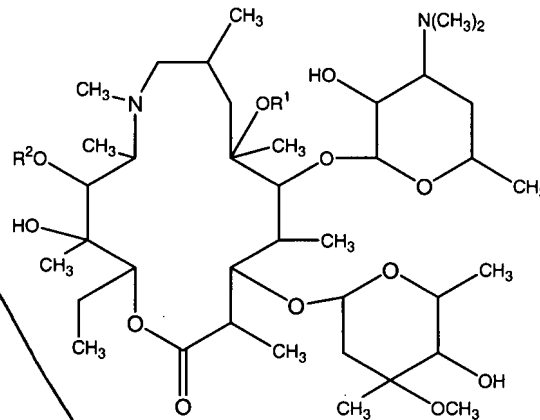


- Sub B2
47. The process according to claim 45, wherein said azalide antibiotic comprises a compound of formula (I):



wherein R¹ and R² each independently represent a hydrogen atom or a methyl group.

48. The process according to claim 47, wherein said azalide antibiotic comprises azithromycin.

49. The process according to claim 45, wherein said application provides a therapeutically effective concentration of azalide antibiotic within a tissue of the eye for at least 8 hours.

- A2
50. The process according to claim 49, wherein said application provides a therapeutically effective concentration of azalide antibiotic within a tissue of the eye for at least 12 hours.

51. The process according to claim 50, wherein said application provides a
- A

~~therapeutically effective concentration of azalide antibiotic within a tissue of the eye for at least 18 hours.~~

~~52. The process according to claim 43, wherein said topically applying comprises supplying a depot of a composition containing said azalide antibiotic on the eye.~~

~~53. The process according to claim 52, wherein said depot is an aqueous polymeric suspension of said azalide antibiotic.~~

~~54. The process according to claim 53, wherein said aqueous polymeric suspension further comprises an additional medicament.~~

~~55. The process according to claim 54, wherein said additional medicament is selected from the group consisting of amikacin, gentamycin, tobramycin, streptomycin, netilmycin, kanamycin ciprofloxacin, norfloxacin, ofloxacin, trovafloxacin, lomefloxacin, levofloxacin, enoxacin, sulfonamides, polymyxin, chloramphenicol, neomycin, paramomomycin, colistimethate, bacitracin, vancomycin, tetracyclines, rifampins, cycloserine, beta-lactams, cephalosporins, amphotericins, fluconazole, flucytosine, natamycin, miconazole, ketoconazole, corticosteroids, diclofenac, flurbiprofen, ketorolac, suprofen, comolyn, lodoxamide, levocabastin, naphazoling, antazoline, and pheniramine.~~

~~56. The process according to claim 52, wherein said depot is a composition selected from the group consisting of an aqueous suspensions, ointments, and inserts.~~

~~57. The process according to claim 56, wherein said composition further comprises an additional medicament.~~

~~58. The process according to claim 57, wherein said additional medicament is selected from the group consisting of antibiotics, antivirals, antifungals, anesthetics, anti-inflammatory agents, and anti-allergic agents.~~

~~59. The process according to claim 52, wherein said depot remains for at least 30~~

~~minutes after administration.~~

~~15~~ 60. The process according to claim ~~59~~ ¹⁴, wherein said depot remains for at least 4 hours after administration.

Sub D6
61. An aqueous polymeric suspension comprising water, 0.01% to 1.0% of an azalide antibiotic and 0.1 to 10% of a polymeric suspending agent.

62. The suspension according to claim 61, further comprising an additional medicament selected from the group consisting of antibiotics, antivirals, antifungals, anesthetics, anti-inflammatory agents, and anti-allergic agents.

63. The suspension according to claim 62, wherein said additional medicament is contained in an amount of from 0.01 to 5.0%.

64. The suspension according to claim 61, wherein said additional medicament is selected from the group consisting of amikacin, gentamycin, tobramycin, streptomycin, netilmycin, kanamycin ciprofloxacin, norfloxacin, ofloxacin, trovafloxacin, lomefloxacin, levofloxacin, enoxacin, sulfonamides, polymyxin, chloramphenicol, neomycin, paramomomycin, colistimethate, bacitracin, vancomycin, tetracyclines, rifampins, cycloserine, beta-lactams, cephalosporins, amphotericins, fluconazole, flucytosine, natamycin, miconazole, ketoconazole, corticosteroids, diclofenac, flurbiprofen, ketorolac, suprofen, comolyn, lodoxamide, levocabastin, naphazoling, antazoline, and pheniramin.

65. A topical ophthalmic composition comprising an effective amount of an azalide antibiotic and an ophthalmically acceptable carrier.

66. The composition according to claim 65, wherein said azalide antibiotic comprises azithromycin.

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67. The composition according to claim 65, further comprising an additional medicament selected from the group consisting of antibiotics, antivirals, antifungals,

~~anesthetics, anti-inflammatory agents, and anti-allergic agents.~~

Sub B7
68. The composition according to claim 67, wherein said composition is fluid; said azalide antibiotic is contained in an amount of from about 0.01 to 2.0%; and said additional medicament is contained in an amount of from about 0.01 to 5.0%.

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69. The composition according to claim 68, wherein said ophthalmically acceptable carrier is water or an aqueous solution and said additional medicament is selected from the group consisting of amikacin, gentamycin, tobramycin, streptomycin, netilmycin, kanamycin ciprofloxacin, norfloxacin, ofloxacin, trovafloxacin, lomefloxacin, levofloxacin, enoxacin, sulfonamides, polymyxin, chloramphenicol, neomycin, paramomomycin, colistimethate, bacitracin, vancomycin, tetracyclines, rifampins, cycloserine, beta-lactams, cephalosporins, amphotericins, fluconazole, flucytosine, natamycin, miconazole, ketoconazole, corticosteroids, diclofenac, flurbiprofen, ketorolac, suprofen, comolyn, lodoxamide, levocabastin, naphazoling, antazoline, and pheniraminane.

70. A process for treating an eye, comprising:
topically applying an azalide antibiotic to an eye of a non-human animal in an amount effective to treat or prevent infection in a tissue of the eye.
Sub CS

71. The process according to claim 70, wherein said non-human animal is a mammal.
Subs D1

72. The process according to claim 71, wherein said mammal is selected from the group consisting of cows, sheep, horses, pigs, goats, rabbits, dogs, and cats.
Sub D2

Sub B8
73. The process according to claim 70, wherein said topical application comprises supplying a depot of a composition containing said azalide antibiotic on the eye.

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74. The process according to claim 73, wherein said depot is an aqueous polymeric suspension of said azalide antibiotic.
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75. The ~~process~~ ^{process} according to claim 74, wherein said ~~aqueous~~ ^{aqueous} polymeric suspension further comprises an additional medicament.

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76. The process according to claim 75, wherein said additional medicament is selected from the group consisting of amikacin, gentamycin, tobramycin, streptomycin, netilmycin, kanamycin ciprofloxacin, norfloxacin, ofloxacin, trovafloxacin, lomefloxacin, levofloxacin, enoxacin, sulfonamides, polymyxin, chloramphenicol, neomycin, paramomomycin, colistimethate, bacitracin, vancomycin, tetracyclines, rifampins, cycloserine, beta-lactams, cephalosporins, amphotericins, fluconazole, flucytosine, natamycin, miconazole, ketoconazole, corticosteroids, diclofenac, flurbiprofen, ketorolac, suprofen, comolyn, lodoxamide, levocabastin, naphazoling, antazoline, and pheniraminane.

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77. The process according to claim 73, wherein said depot is a composition selected from the group consisting of an aqueous suspensions, ointments, and inserts.

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78. The process according to claim 77, wherein said depot remains for at least 30 minutes after administration.

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79. The process according to claim 78, wherein said depot remains for at least 4 hours after administration.

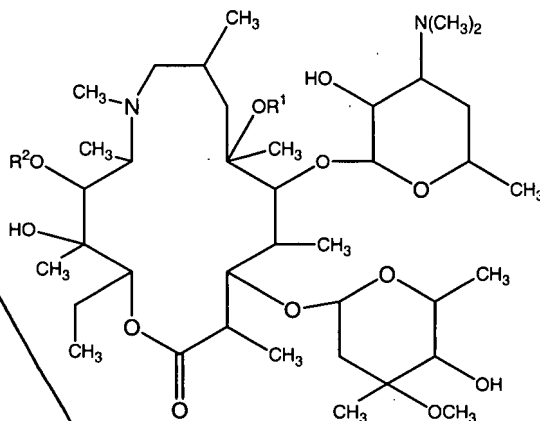
80. The process according to claim 70, wherein said composition further comprises an additional medicament ^{by D₅}

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81. The process according to claim 80, wherein said additional medicament is selected from the group consisting of antibiotics, antivirals, antifungals, anesthetics, anti-inflammatory agents, and anti-allergic agents.

82. The process according to claim 70, wherein said eye is suffering from at least one condition selected from the group consisting of conjunctivitis, ophthalmia neonatorum, trachoma, corneal ulcers, keratitis, keratoconjunctivitis, endophthalmitis, infectious uveitis and combinations thereof, and said amount of said azalide antibiotic is therapeutically

effective to treat said condition.

83. The process according to claim 70, wherein said azalide antibiotic comprises a compound of formula (I):



(I)

wherein R^1 and R^2 each independently represent a hydrogen atom or a methyl group.

84. The process according to claim 83, wherein said azalide antibiotic comprises azithromycin.

85. The process according to claim 70, wherein said application provides a therapeutically effective concentration of azalide antibiotic within a tissue of the eye for at least 8 hours.

86. The process according to claim 85, wherein said application provides a therapeutically effective concentration of azalide antibiotic within a tissue of the eye for at least 12 hours.

87. The process according to claim 86, wherein said application provides a therapeutically effective concentration of azalide antibiotic within a tissue of the eye for at

~~Least 18 hours.~~

88. A topical ophthalmic composition for use in a non-human animal, comprising an effective amount of an azalide antibiotic and an ophthalmically acceptable carrier.
89. The composition according to claim 88, wherein said non-human animal is a mammal.
90. The composition according to claim 89, wherein said mammal is selected from the group consisting of cows, sheep, horses, pigs, goats, rabbits, dogs, and cats.
91. The composition according to claim 88, wherein said azalide antibiotic comprises azithromycin.
92. The composition according to claim 88, further comprising an additional medicament selected from the group consisting of antibiotics, antivirals, antifungals, anesthetics, anti-inflammatory agents, and anti-allergic agents.
93. The composition according to claim 92, wherein said composition is fluid; said azalide antibiotic is contained in an amount of from about 0.01 to 2.0%; and said additional medicament is contained in an amount of from about 0.01 to 5.0%.
94. The composition according to claim 88 further comprising an additional medicament, wherein said ophthalmically acceptable carrier is water or an aqueous solution and said additional medicament is selected from the group consisting of amikacin, gentamycin, tobramycin, streptomycin, netilmycin, kanamycin ciprofloxacin, norfloxacin, ofloxacin, trovafloxacin, lomefloxacin, levofloxacin, enoxacin, sulfonamides, polymyxin, chloramphenicol, neomycin, paramomomycin, colistimethate, bacitracin, vancomycin, tetracyclines, rifampins, cycloserine, beta-lactams, cephalosporins, amphotericins, fluconazole, flucytosine, natamycin, miconazole, ketoconazole, corticosteroids, diclofenac, flurbiprofen, ketorolac, suprofen, comolyn, lodoxamide, levocabastin, naphazoling,

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